

NORTHEAST ORGANIC FARMING ASSOCIATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY PROGRAM 2014 CONSULTANT DIRECTORY



A guide connecting you with experienced farmers and consultants who will help you answer your in-the-moment farming questions.



Greetings, Beginning Farmer!

Through the Technical Consultancy Program, NOFA-NH is facilitating short-term, technically-focused consultations between new and experienced farmers.

Read all about the program at:

<http://nofanh.org/technical-consultancy-program/>

This booklet contains descriptions of, and contact information for New Hampshire organic and sustainable farmers who are taking part in the NOFA-NH Technical Consultancy program. These farmers are ready to consult with you about farm planning, production and management. Any farmer with less than ten years of farm management or ownership experience may use this directory to learn from and discuss challenging farm production and business ideas with experienced growers.

How to use this directory and the Technical Consultancy Program:

- Read all about our amazing consultants on the following pages.* We've highlighted these farmers' main areas of expertise to make your decision about whom to contact a bit easier.
- Use the provided e-mail address to contact any of the consultants listed. If you don't have access to the internet, please call Ray Conner at (772) 341-1850 to be put in touch with the consultant via phone. You're encouraged to follow up and try again if you don't hear back within a few days—you know how it goes, especially during the growing season!
- Once you make a connection about your farming question, the consultant will be paid for up to 6 hours of their time spent with you on that specific topic.
- You may contact multiple consultants, or the same consultant multiple times for different topics.
- Evaluate your consultation(s). (More information on how to do this in the following pages).
- Please discard this booklet after April 2015.

* NOTE: Each Technical Consultant has gone through an application process to ensure a certain level of teaching/mentorship experience and farm experience and we believe they will provide high-quality information to the best of their ability. NOFA-NH is not responsible for the information provided by these consultants. While many of our farmer consultants are certified organic, you should always check with your own certifier, if you're certified or plan to be certified, to verify materials you want to use on your farm.

About NOFA-NH

In 1971, the Northeast Organic Farming Association was started by Samuel Kaymen along with a group of young environmentalists and concerned citizens, including local Barrington, NH farmer Joe White and Lee, NH farmer Chuck Cox (one of our Technical Consultants!). They met on the border of Vermont and New Hampshire to discuss the current agricultural and environmental crisis. Since that time, the organization has persisted and grown, now with chapters in Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.

The NOFA Interstate Council oversees the annual regional Summer Conference, the regional publication *The Natural Farmer*, and leads public policy advocacy at a regional and national level. Each NOFA Chapter is a separately governed nonprofit organization, each doing their part to support the organic agricultural mission in their respective states.

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire has a membership base of over 800 people, including farmers, gardeners, homesteaders, land care professionals, educators, environmentalists and consumers. We have a strong community and share a unified vision of improving our food system, providing education and supporting our local organic farms.

Our Mission:

We actively promote organic and sustainable local food systems through regenerative and ecologically-sound land care, farming, and gardening for healthy communities. We help people build local, sustainable, healthy food systems.

What we do:

NOFA-NH helps farmers, land care professionals, gardeners, herbalists and consumers to GROW through education and collaboration; MARKET organic products and services; and CONNECT to cultivate consciousness and change.

INFO@NOFANH.ORG
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Chuck Cox

Tuckaway and Sheltering Rock Farms

Lee, New Hampshire

Contact Information: farmer1@nofanh.org

Chuck has been farming all his life. He spent his childhood haying with draft horses and attending a boarding high school with a comprehensive farm program. This led him to pursue a degree from the Cornell School of Agriculture in Pomology. After college, Chuck pursued farming all over the world. He has extensive experience in animal husbandry (dairy, sheep, beef, pigs, poultry) and horticulture. Chuck ran an organic farm in Plaistow, NH for five years prior to purchasing, building infrastructure for, and farming at Tuckaway Farm, where he's been for 32 years. Eleven years ago, Chuck and his family purchased the farm adjacent to their own after extensive work crafting a conservation easement with a local land trust.



Tuckaway Farm produces hay (over 5,000 square bales per year), and cultivates a half-acre of high bush blueberries, asparagus, strawberries, raspberries, fruit trees, field corn, sweet corn, pumpkins, squash, dry beans, and grains, and engages in on-farm grain processing. Chuck also uses high tunnels for winter growing, tomatoes, and peppers, and works with Slow Food and Chef's Collaborative raising unique heirloom garden vegetables. He uses both overhead and drip irrigation, and both tractor and draft horse power in his gardens. Chuck markets his farm products to restaurants and the local school district, and direct to customers at the Lee and Newmarket farmers markets, through a CSA and at Tuckaway Farm's farm store.

Off farm, Chuck works with the Food and Nutrition Committee of the local school Sustainability Committee, as well as with the Lee Agricultural Commission, the Strafford County Farm Bureau, and Greenstart.

Areas of Expertise:

- Organic vegetable production
- Organic small fruit production
- Draft power
- Small grains and grain processing
- Livestock production
- Hay production

Jim Ramanek

Warner River Organics
Webster, NH

Contact Information: farmer2@nofanh.org

Jim Ramanek owns and operates Warner River Organics, a USDA certified organic producer of spring transplants, seasonal mixed vegetables, medicinal and culinary herbs, seed garlic, raw honey, shiitake mushrooms, and tree fruit and berries; as well as value-added products like dried fruit, vegetables, herbs and shiitake mushrooms. Warner River Organics offers a year-round farmers market CSA, and attends seven summer farmers' markets and four winter farmers' markets. It also markets farm products through a farm stand and offers on-line ordering through www.harvesttomarket.com.

Jim own 10.5 acres in Webster, NH, and seeks out unused, private or publicly owned agricultural land for the rest of his production. Once he has a secure lease, he gets the land certified for organic production and manages the land organically. Jim currently farms land in Concord, Hopkinton, West Hopkinton, Henniker and Webster.

Jim has over thirty years of gardening experience and nine years of commercial farming experience. Jim teaches the organic gardening component of the master gardener program, and is a frequent conference and workshop presenter. Jim also has over twenty-six years of computer training experience and sixteen years of agricultural training experience.

Area of Expertise:

- High tunnel production
- Organic field crop production
- Managing a small CSA
- Spring seedling production
- Shiitake mushroom production
- Recordkeeping
- Pricing
- Organic certification
- Selling at farmers markets
- Farmers market formation and management
- Business formation and management
- Hiring/acquiring farm help
- Computer software: Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Word, QuickBooks
- Marketing and promotion



Andy and Christine Pressman

Foggy Hill Farm

Jaffrey, NH

Contact Information: farmer3@nofanh.org



Andy and Christine operate Foggy Hill Farm, a small, diversified farm and CSA in Jaffrey, NH. They utilize organic soil fertility practices, intensive plantings, season extension, and succession plantings to commercially produce on one acre. Andy and Christine also raise small livestock and honeybees. Together they have over 35 years of organic farming experience.

Christine has been managing vegetable farms since the mid 1990's throughout the Northeast. Christine spent over 15 years managing production and marketing through CSA's, farm stands, farmers markets, and restaurants. Christine spent many years developing on-farm programs for interns and apprentices as well as for adults with disabilities. This experience allowed her to serve as the Director of Agriculture Education at a non-profit farm from 2007-2010, during which time she developed curriculum for all ages that have been published by the Farm-Based Education Association. Christine has served as a mentor to beginning farmers and has worked on implementing programs for advanced growers throughout NH.

Andy has a background in sustainable systems design/agroecology and has been managing diversified crop and livestock farms for over 14 years. He has received training as an organic inspector from IOIA and has experience in Permaculture design. Andy currently works as a Sustainable Agriculture Specialist with the National Center for Appropriate Technology. Through their ATTRA Project – the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service – Andy works with farmers throughout the country by providing technical assistance primarily in the fields of small-scale intensive crop production, tools and equipment, organic certification, local food systems, and farm energy.

Areas of Expertise:

- Small-scale intensive crop production
- Season extension
- Appropriate scale tools and equipment
- Organic certification
- Local Food Systems
- Farm-Scale Permaculture
- Farm Energy
- Apprenticeship/Intern management/curriculum
- Small-scale livestock



Kate Donald

Stout Oak Farm

Brentwood, NH

Contact Information: farmer4@nofanh.org

Kate Donald is owner of Stout Oak Farm, an organic vegetable farm in Brentwood, NH. Stout Oak grows 5 acres of certified organic vegetables for a CSA, farm store, farmers' markets, and local restaurants. Additional farm enterprises include a flock

of pastured laying hens, spring seedling sales, and a new fruit orchard. The farm is located on the historic Creamery Brook Farm property, which includes 56 acres of conservation land. Kate and her husband Jeff purchased the farm in 2012, after renting land nearby for several years.

Kate has been an organic vegetable farmer for the past 14 years, having worked on and managed farms in California, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. She serves on the board of directors of Seacoast Eat Local, and is an active member of the Seacoast Growers' Association, NOFA-NH, and the New England Farmers' Union. She is involved in building local farmer networks through her role as coordinator of Seacoast Eat Local's Winter Farmers' Markets, and as a member of the new pilot marketing cooperative, Three River Famers' Alliance. Prior to farming, Kate spent 5 years in New York City, where she directed "The City Farms" urban agriculture program, and developed community gardens, school gardens, and garden-based education programs. She has a BS in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and a Certificate in Ecological Horticulture from the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Areas of Expertise:

- Vegetable Crop Production
- Marketing and Public/Community Relations
- Organic Certification Process/Record Keeping
- Greenhouse Management: Vegetable Seedling Production
- CSA Management
- Vegetable crop planning for CSA
- CSA models & structures
- CSA record keeping
- Farm Start Up & Budgeting (1 to 5 acre vegetable farm)
- Land Access/Land Tenure Issues
- Farmers' Market Development



Roger Noonan

Middle Branch Farm

New Boston, NH

Contact Information: farmer5@nofanh.org

Roger Noonan is an organic farmer and owner/operator of Middle Branch Farm in New Boston, NH. Middle Branch Farm is a diversified family farm with operations ranging from maple syrup production, greenhouse production, organic vegetable production, organic hay and forage crop production, livestock production and on-farm composting. Middle Branch Farm direct

markets its' products through its own CSA, a cooperative CSA, and a farm store; and wholesales to restaurants, national food chains and other outlets.

Roger is extremely active in New Hampshire's agricultural community. He is a founding board member of Local Harvest CSA, and is a supervisor for the Hillsborough County Conservation District. He's President of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts, and a member of the Government Affairs Committee for NH Farm Bureau. He serves as the Agricultural Representative on the NH Rivers Management Advisory Council and is his county's representative to the NH Agricultural Advisory Board. In his spare time, Roger is President of the New England Farmers Union.

As a certified organic producer, Roger has experience with the National Organic Standards program and understands the issues and barriers to certification faced by transitioning farmers. He is also a national leader on food safety and speaks around the country on the Food Safety Modernization Act and other policy issues that affect family farmers.

Areas of Expertise:

- Federal, state and local laws that impact agriculture
- Legal and Labor Concerns
- Local Zoning Issues
- Federal programs available to farmers
- Food Safety and wholesale markets
- Cooperative marketing
- Vegetable Crop Production
- Managing a CSA
- Local Food Systems

NOFA-NH's Technical Consultancy Program

NOFA-NH's Technical Consultancy Program is funded by a Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NESARE) grant. The program contracts experienced farmers and related professionals from around the state to provide short-term assistance to support the success of beginning farmers and the viability of their farms. Beginning farmers throughout NH can use this program for free, and work directly with farmer consultants on production and business challenges they face; for up to six hours of consultation per topic.

NOFA-NH's Beginner Farmer Program

NOFA-NH's Beginner Farmer Program offers both Journeyperson and Mentorship programs for beginning production farmers within their first 1-3 years in a farm management position, and an online Farm Job and Apprenticeship Listing. NOFA-NH also offers beginning farmers scholarships to the NOFA-NH Winter Conference and other NOFA-NH workshops throughout the year.

Please provide us with feedback about your consultation experiences!

After working with a consultant, please complete the Technical Consultancy Program survey at:

<https://nofa.wufoo.com/forms/nofanh-technical-consultancy-outcomes/>



For more information or questions, please contact Ray Conner, Beginner Farmer Program Coordinator, (772) 341-1850 or bof@nofanh.org

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